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press release

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MACHINE TOOL ORDERS AND SHIPMENTS RISE

McLean, VA, June 24, 1985 -- Machine tool orders in May rose 22 percent from their April total. Shipments also rose, finishing the month five percent higher. These increases were paced by strong growth in the metal-cutting sector of the industry and offset by losses in the metal-forming machine tool sector.

The positive aspect of the month-to-month growth in orders and shipments was tempered, however, by a comparison with May 1984 data. Compared to last year, orders (at $223,150,000) were off 30 percent, while shipments (which totaled $177,650,000) were off 15 percent.

"These fluctuations in month-to-month data comparisons graphically illustrate the precariousness of drawing conclusions about

more

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the machine tool industry, based upon only a limited amount of information." concluded James A. Gray, president of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. The association has gathered monthly orders and shipments data for more than a half century.

"Inspection of data for the first five months of 1984 shows that the first three months were very weak, while April and May were very strong. June 1984 was another weak month. Conversely, March 1985 showed a strong order surge that was offset by a compensatory decline in April." Gray said.

"The important comparison is, I believe, the total for the past several months." he stated. For the first five months of 1985, orders were off only three percent, while shipments scored a seven percent increase. "These shipment figures indicate that modest recovery is continuing for the American machine tool industry; while the order data may presage a leveling off of the current growth pattern during 1986." Gray said.

The industry's order backlog grew two percent during May to a total value of $1,930,450,000.

For the metal-cutting segment of the machine tool industry, May orders totaled $170,850,000, which is a 40 percent increase from April. Shipments totaled $118,950,000 during the month, 15 percent above the April shipment rate, but 21 percent below the May 1984 rate.

The metal-forming machine tool component of the industry did not fare as well. Orders, which totaled $52,300,000, were off 15 percent from the previous month and 60 percent from last year. Similarly, shipments were down 12 percent from April, to a value of $58,700,000, and were off 2 percent from 1984. Because May metal-forming machine tool shipments exceeded orders, the backlog declined in this portion of the industry.

# # #

COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

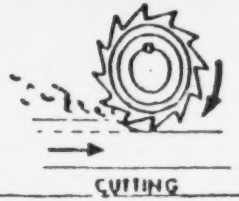
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
May 1985	157,350	13,500	170,850	46,800	5,500	52,300	204,150	19,000	223,150
April 1985	112,850	9,250	122,100	57,300	4,100	61,400	170,150	13,350	183,500
% Change									
May 1985:Apr. 1985	+39.4	+45.9	+39.9	-18.3	+34.1	-14.8	+20.0	+42.3	+21.6
May 1984	167,500	20,950	188,450	124,400	6,700	131,100	291,900	27,650	319,550
% Change									
May 1985: May 1984	-6.1	-35.6	-9.3	-62.4	-17.9	-60.1	-30.1	-31.3	-30.2
Year To Date 1985	745,700	75,750	821,450	291,850	21,600	313,450	1,037,550	97,350	1,134,900
Year To Date 1984	679,300	101,700	781,000	366,100	26,000	392,100	1,045,400	127,700	1,173,100
% Change									
1985 : 1984	+9.8	-25.5	+5.2	-20.3	-16.9	-20.1	-0.8	-23.8	-3.3

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Thousands of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
May 1985	110,000	8,950	118,950	54,050	4,650	58,700	164,050	13,600	177,650
April 1985	98,150	5,000	103,150	63,650	2,950	66,600	161,800	7,950	169,750
% Change									
May 1985:Apr. 1985	+12.1	+79.0	+15.3	-15.1	+57.6	-11.9	+1.4	+71.1	+4.7
May 1984	142,100	7,900	150,000	52,300	7,750	60,050	194,400	15,650	210,050
% Change									
May 1985: May 1984	-22.6	+13.3	-20.7	+3.3	-40.0	-2.2	-15.6	-13.1	-15.4
Year To Date 1985	528,050	51,100	579,150	280,550	19,400	299,950	808,600	70,500	879,100
Year To Date 1984	507,800	41,800	549,600	240,550	28,150	268,700	748,350	69,950	818,300
% Change									
1985 : 1984	+4.0	+22.2	+5.4	+16.6	-31.1	+11.6	+8.1	+0.8	+7.4

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association

Form No. PRCC-2



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

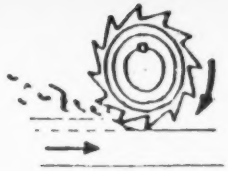
DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985							
Jan.	$ 195,900,000	$ 15,550,000	$ 211,450,000	1,748.30	$ 126,550,000	$ 11,250,000	$ 137,800,000
Feb.	$ 217,600,000	$ 19,900,000	$ 237,500,000	1,819.55	$ 151,650,000	$ 14,600,000	$ 166,250,000
Mar.	$ 249,750,000	$ 29,550,000	$ 279,300,000	1,871.20	$ 204,550,000	$ 23,100,000	$ 227,650,000
Apr.	$ 170,150,000	$ 13,350,000	$ 183,500,000	1,884.95	$ 161,800,000	$ 7,950,000	$ 169,750,000
May (p)	$ 204,150,000	$ 19,000,000	$ 223,150,000	1,930.45	$ 164,050,000	$ 13,600,000	$ 177,650,000
5 Mos.	$1,037,550,000	$ 97,350,000	$1,134,900,000		$ 808,600,000	$ 70,500,000	$ 879,100,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985						
Jan.	$ 209,000,000	$ 17,850,000	$ 226,850,000	$ 13,100,000	$ 2,300,000	$ 15,400,000
Feb.	$ 230,450,000	$ 20,650,000	$ 251,100,000	$ 12,850,000	$ 750,000	$ 13,600,000
Mar.	$ 266,100,000	$ 32,350,000	$ 298,450,000	$ 16,350,000	$ 2,800,000	$ 19,150,000
Apr.	$ 176,350,000	$ 14,950,000	$ 191,300,000	$ 6,200,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 7,800,000
May (p)	$ 217,100,000	$ 19,100,000	$ 236,200,000	$ 12,950,000	$ 100,000	$ 13,050,000
5 Mos.	$1,099,000,000	$ 104,900,000	$1,203,900,000	$ 61,450,000	$ 7,550,000	$ 69,000,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1c

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	NET NEW ORDERS Foreign	NET NEW ORDERS Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	SHIPMENTS Foreign	SHIPMENTS Total
1985							
Jan.	$ 124,750,000	$ 13,000,000	$ 137,750,000	1,180.45	$ 80,600,000	$ 9,150,000	$ 89,750,000
Feb.	$ 148,050,000	$ 15,700,000	$ 163,750,000	1,235.90	$ 98,950,000	$ 9,350,000	$ 108,300,000
Mar.	$ 202,700,000	$ 24,300,000	$ 227,000,000	1,303.90	$ 140,350,000	$ 18,650,000	$ 159,000,000
Apr.	$ 112,850,000	$ 9,250,000	$ 122,100,000	1,322.85	$ 98,150,000	$ 5,000,000	$ 103,150,000
May (p)	$ 157,350,000	$ 13,500,000	$ 170,850,000	1,374.75	$ 110,000,000	$ 8,950,000	$ 118,950,000
5 Mos.	$ 745,700,000	$ 75,750,000	$ 821,450,000		$ 528,050,000	$ 51,100,000	$ 579,150,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	GROSS NEW ORDERS Foreign	GROSS NEW ORDERS Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	CANCELLATIONS Foreign	CANCELLATIONS Total
1985						
Jan.	$ 136,250,000	$ 14,050,000	$ 150,300,000	$ 11,500,000	$ 1,050,000	$ 12,550,000
Feb.	$ 158,900,000	$ 16,400,000	$ 175,300,000	$ 10,850,000	$ 700,000	$ 11,550,000
Mar.	$ 212,600,000	$ 27,050,000	$ 239,650,000	$ 9,900,000	$ 2,750,000	$ 12,650,000
Apr.	$ 117,000,000	$ 10,200,000	$ 127,200,000	$ 4,150,000	$ 950,000	$ 5,100,000
May (p)	$ 163,850,000	$ 13,550,000	$ 177,400,000	$ 6,500,000	$ 50,000	$ 6,550,000
5 Mos.	$ 788,600,000	$ 81,250,000	$ 869,850,000	$ 42,900,000	$ 5,500,000	$ 48,400,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1c

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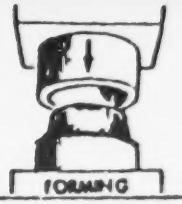
INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog (In Mil. $)	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985							
Jan.	$ 71,150,000	$ 2,550,000	$ 73,700,000	567.85	$ 45,950,000	$ 2,100,000	$ 48,050,000
Feb.	$ 69,550,000	$ 4,200,000	$ 73,750,000	583.65	$ 52,700,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 57,950,000
Mar.	$ 47,050,000	$ 5,250,000	$ 52,300,000	567.30	$ 64,200,000	$ 4,450,000	$ 68,650,000
Apr.	$ 57,300,000	$ 4,100,000	$ 61,400,000	562.10	$ 63,650,000	$ 2,950,000	$ 66,600,000
May (p)	$ 46,800,000	$ 5,500,000	$ 52,300,000	555.70	$ 54,050,000	$ 4,650,000	$ 58,700,000
5 Mos.	$ 291,850,000	$ 21,600,000	$ 313,450,000		$ 280,550,000	$ 19,400,000	$ 299,950,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1985						
Jan.	$ 72,750,000	$ 3,800,000	$ 76,550,000	$ 1,600,000	$ 1,250,000	$ 2,850,000
Feb.	$ 71,550,000	$ 4,250,000	$ 75,800,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 50,000	$ 2,050,000
Mar.	$ 53,500,000	$ 5,300,000	$ 58,800,000	$ 6,450,000	$ 50,000	$ 6,500,000
Apr.	$ 59,350,000	$ 4,750,000	$ 64,100,000	$ 2,050,000	$ 650,000	$ 2,700,000
May (p)	$ 53,250,000	$ 5,550,000	$ 58,800,000	$ 6,450,000	$ 50,000	$ 6,500,000
5 Mos.	$ 310,400,000	$ 23,650,000	$ 334,050,000	$ 18,550,000	$ 2,050,000	$ 20,600,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1d

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